

APPEARED  
ON PAGE 7-A

THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
30 NOVEMBER 1982

# Canadian professor charged in Britain as a spy for KGB

LONDON (AP) — Britain yesterday charged a Canadian professor with spying for the Kremlin for three decades and quoted him as saying he dined in Moscow with Yuri V. Andropov in 1975 when the Soviet leader was head of the KGB.

"It was quite an honor," Hugh George Hambleton, 60, told British interrogators, the prosecution said. He was a NATO official in Paris from 1956 to 1961 and now is an economics professor at Quebec's Laval University.

But Hambleton, Canadian by birth and British by descent with dual nationality, pleaded innocent at the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court to passing top-secret Western information to Soviet agents between 1956 and 1979.

The jury trial, expected to last five days, was the third Old Bailey prosecution in three weeks under Britain's anti-espionage Official Secrets Act.

On Sunday, British authorities announced a lance-corporal was under arrest at a British army base at Aldershot, and the Daily Mail said he was being questioned on whether the Soviets "might have learned details about the way intelligence was gathered" during last spring's Falklands war with Argentina.

Earlier, Rhona Jane Ritchie, 30, a former diplomat at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, got a nine-month suspended jail sentence after pleading guilty to giving her Egyptian diplomat-lover confidential telegrams from Britain's foreign secretary to the U.S. secretary of state about the multinational peacekeeping force being set up in the Sinai.

Miss Ritchie, described as "more foolish than wicked," escaped a jail term after defense lawyers argued that the messages she gave a year ago to Refaat el-Ansary, then serving at the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, would mostly have become public knowledge anyway.

Attorney General Sir Michael Havers told the same court that Hambleton spent more than 30 years "in continuous contact with Russian

agents" after being recruited by an officer of the KGB Soviet secret police, attached to the Soviet embassy in Canada when he worked for Canadian military intelligence.

Hambleton was not charged by Canadian police because his activities were not considered to have directly harmed Canada under that country's narrow Official Secrets Act, although they seized spying equipment at his Quebec home and interrogated him in November 1979. Hambleton was arrested last June when he came here on a British passport, saying he intended to take a sailing course, Havers said.

Britain has charged him on grounds that he is a Briton who damaged this country as a member of the 15-nation NATO alliance, by allegedly passing NATO secrets to the Soviets.

In alleged statements to British police read out in court, Hambleton, who is divorced, described a 1975 dinner in a Moscow apartment with Andropov, after he traveled to the

Soviet Union by circuitous route from Vienna on a Soviet diplomatic passport. Andropov, Hambleton said, urged him to run for the Canadian Parliament and promised to finance him.



AP

Rhona Jane Ritchie, 30, a former diplomat at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, gets nine-month suspended sentence in spying case.